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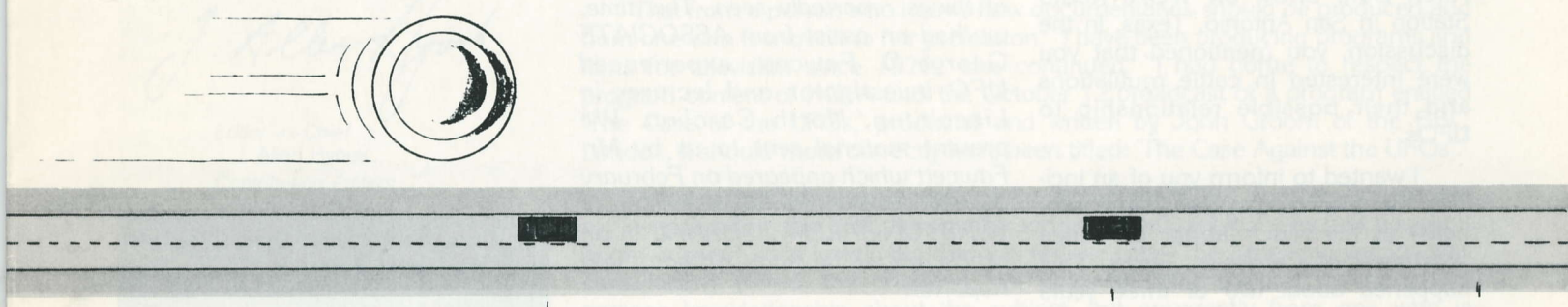

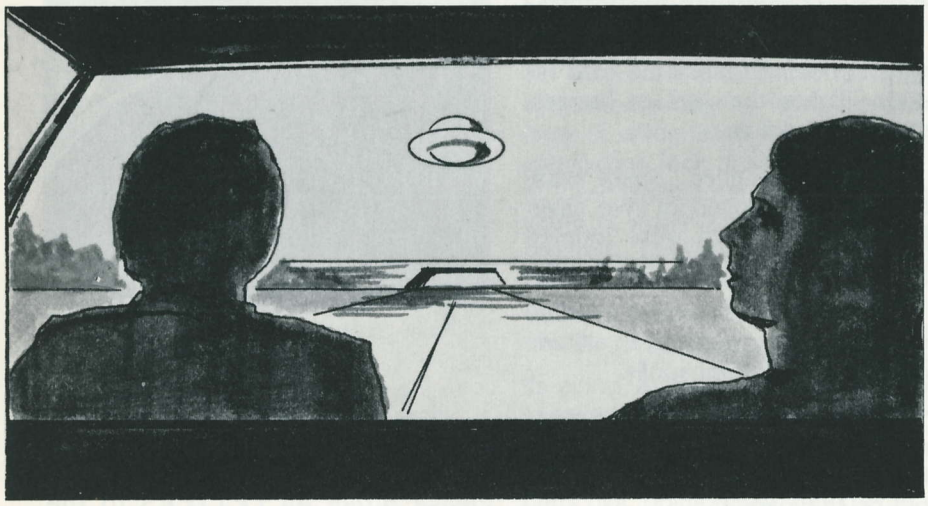

VIEW FROM CAR

JOLIET, ILLINOIS
MAY 8, 1977
2 PM

— INDEPENDENT WITNESSES

— LARGE ANGULAR SIZE

— DAYLIGHT VIEWING

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CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

LETTERS

(Editor's Note: This letter arrived at our offices just before press time for this issue. It is included because the Center has received so many queries about the possible connection between the cattle mutilations and UFOs. Obviously, much further investigation will need to be done into this particular incident, but we thought, if this proves to be correct, then this appears to be one of the very first direct indications that there might be such a connection.)

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I heard your discussion on the Allen Dale Show on WOAI Radio Station in San Antonio, Texas. In the discussion, you mentioned that you were interested in cattle mutilations and their possible relationship to UFOs.

I wanted to inform you of an incident that involved my dad (name withheld) at his ranch about six miles southwest of Cameron, Texas. This happened about two or three years ago. My dad was so disturbed when he returned home that he couldn't sleep that night. He told no one of the incident.

He remained disturbed for two days when finally my mother had my uncle talk to him and finally got him to talk about it, reluctantly. He was looking for a lost calf on a hill at the pasture. This was a grey, overcast day. He had crossed the hill and had decided to go back over it again. As he turned, he saw two "creatures" carrying a calf between them.

When he saw this, he ran the opposite way and did not look back. His description of the "creatures" was..."a greenish color, with large eye-looking appendages on the side of the head. They were about for feet tall."

After he finally told what happened, my brother and he returned to the scene and found the calf, mutilated. There was no blood. The skin had been pulled over the calf's head and the sex organs were missing.

This is a brief description of the incident and I may not be completely accurate on all points. You can contact my dad for further information.

(Name on file)
Corpus Christs, Texas

(In our last issue of IUR we included a letter from Macon, Georgia in which Helen Frank described what appeared to her to have been a "huge thing, like a piece of silver foil undulating in the air above Macon." Sometimes we are able to assist in unusual explanations of things reportedly seen. This time, we had an assist from ASSOCIATE George D. Fawcett, experienced UFO investigator and lecturer in Lincolnton, North Carolina. We present material sent to us by Mr. Fawcett which appeared on February 26, 1975 in the Northwest Edition of WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL in an article written by Ann Corrigan, Staff Reporter:

"A sculpture professor at the University of South Carolina has created a new art form, and at least 15 people saw it floating over and landing near Arcadia (N.C.) about two weeks ago.

The professor is Howard Woody from Columbia, S.C., and he calls his creation "lighter-than-air" or "atmospheric sky" sculpture.

The sculpture titled "Space Barricade," was composed of five silver mylar sections, which were inflated with helium and attached with string.

The soaring sculpture traveled about 65 miles and reached an altitude of 7,800 feet over Kannapolis.

Woody said he has released more than 60 of these sculptures across the United States, Canada and Europe." (Photo on this page.)

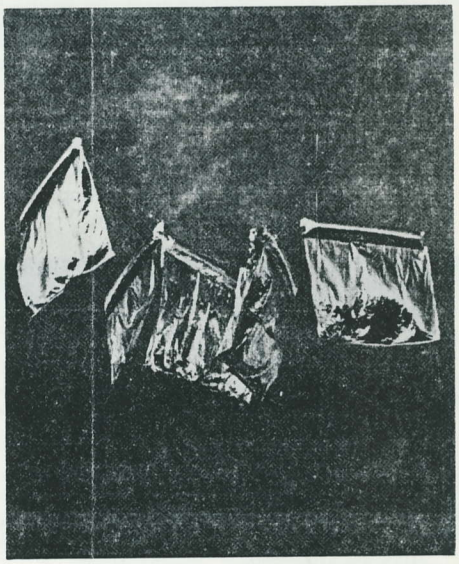
from George Fawcett:

I'm convinced that this is the explanation. Being at the mercy of the wind, it could flap up and down and reflect the sun's rays when they hit it.

At dusk, the sun would not hit the sculpture, so it would give the illusion of speeding away and disappearing rapidly.

from Helen Frank:

I just received the picture from Mr. Fawcett of the thing he described and, instantly, I knew it had to be the thing we saw. I am delighted to have solved my mystery and wish all of my wishes were answered as promptly. □

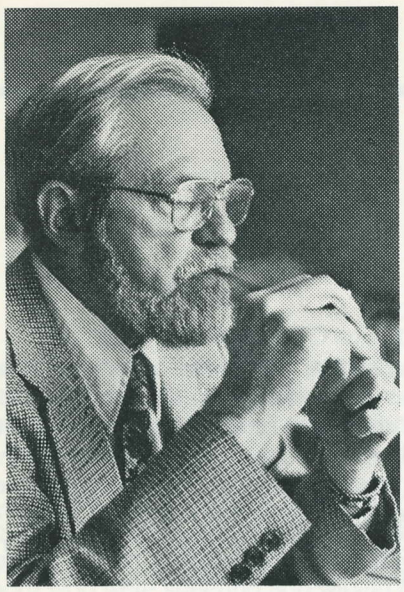


"SPACE BARRICADE"
By Prof. Howard Woody

Please direct all LETTERS to the Editor to:

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
P.O. Box 1402
Evanston, IL 60204 U.S.A.

EDITORIAL



Russell Croop

J. Allen Hynek

Editor-in-Chief
J. Allen Hynek
Contributing Editors
Robert Gribble
Mark Rodeghier
Dr. Kenneth Schellhase
Richard Sigismund
Production Manager
John P. Timmerman
Cover Art
Allan Hendry

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NOVA and UFOs

"NOVA can no longer be perceived as credible journalism after this" wrote Linda Moulton Howe, award-winning TV documentary producer, to John Mansfield, Executive Producer of NOVA. She was, of course, referring to the NOVA presentation "The Case of the UFOs" which launched the 1982-83 NOVA season on Oct. 12.

"I don't believe I have ever seen such a biased, lopsided story, especially not on NOVA. There were so many glaring omissions," she continued,"...This was a preachy, biased script of such questionable journalistic ethics, with such a clear and focused bias of content, that it's an insult to the journalistic profession of which I am a member."

That from a person who knows how documentaries should be produced and from one who is a credit to her profession. "I have been producing programs and films for television since 1970," she continued. "I had come to respect the program content of NOVA until the October 12 broadcast of a program entitled 'The Case of the UFOs,' produced and written by John Groom of the BBC, London. It should more correctly have been titled: 'The Case Against the UFOs'."

Perhaps the fault is not entirely of the American NOVA, for they bought this pig-in-a-poke from the BBC. It would be somewhat excusable if they had bought it "sight unseen" so to speak, but that was not the case. The American version was considerably edited and changed, not however, after seeking the advice of persons knowledgeable about the subject, but apparently from one who is ignorant of it. According to Walt Andrus, Director of MUFON, Cindi Jessen, Promotional Assistant to NOVA, admitted to him that the final participants for the American version were selected by Kendrick Frazier, editor of "The Skeptical Inquirer," published by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Claims of the Paranormal! If we needed any further evidence that this committee is dedicated not to truth but to the maintainance of a position, we have it here.

Even the promotion for the program was deceitful. The program was advertised widely as "a rigorous, scientific investigation of the fact, fiction and hoax of unidentified flying objects" and the press release stated, "NOVA takes a penetrating look at several famous UFO reports...and proves that serious study of these mysterious phenomena is very much alive, and may just now be on the verge of significant discoveries." A come-on if there ever was one! The actual program, however, gave the impression that anyone spending time on broad-based investigations of the UFO phenomenon was not playing with a full deck of cards.

I had the opportunity of previewing this NOVA program several weeks before its airing, through the courtesy of WTTW, the PBS station in Chicago, and was shocked at the unfair treatment the subject was given. I was frustrated that there was no chance for a rebuttal to the Kangaroo Court treatment I had just witnessed. Not one recognized ufologist had been allowed time to rebut the parochial, opinionated statements of the well-known skeptics, who were prominently exhibited, although many had been duly interviewed and taped. Their testimony had been completely omitted! As Erwin Polakoff, Counsel for the Center wryly remarked, "It doesn't take a lawyer to see that an injustice has been done." It would be unthinkable in any American court of justice to give time only to the Prosecution and none to the Defense.

NOVA...

A few examples of some of the material that had been taped and then deliberately omitted: Walt Andrus informs us that when John Groom (the BBC producer) was in Houston, he taped more than two reels of an interview with John Schuessler at the site of the very excellent Cash-Landrum case; none of this was used. Nor were the several reels of tape made at the Center for UFO Studies used; these described the work of the Center and the overall nature of the UFO phenomenon and the various theories about it. Likewise, none of the Center's participation in the taping in Canada which pointed out some glaring flaws in the Persinger theory of UFOs as caused by piezoelectric glows arising from geologic faults. The only part of the long Center sequence that was used was that of Hendry discussing IFOs and the common mistakes people make, but these were so adroitly edited that Hendry came across largely as a debunker and avowed skeptic!

To give another example of the egregious bias of the NOVA presentation: Groom had asked Allan Hendry and me for "a really good case" to re-enact for taping. Hendry chose a case he had carefully investigated some years ago when he was Chief Investigator for the Center: the Joliet case of May 8, 1977 (see UFO Handbook, p. 114), which satisfied the three criteria of a "good case"...a close encounter, completely independent witnesses, and preferably a daytime occurrence. The case involved a research chemist and her husband, in one car, and a physician and his wife in another car, separated by fifteen miles along the same highway. (See cover illustration). At about 2 P.M. they saw a silver "straw hat" as large as the moon, fly silently over the top of their cars, moving rapidly and against the local wind direction. These four witnesses were kind enough to give up a day of their lives to re-enact their experience for NOVA in the interests (they thought) of science and truth. But NOVA never used this; they had no ready explanation for it! Instead NOVA used the limited time alloted to the program to show the fake pictures from Warminster, England, on "UFOs" that were easily shown to be Soviet space shots, and on one astronaut (Conrad) who denounced everything connected with reported astronaut sightings (no mention of course was made of the experiences of astronauts Slayton, McDivitt, and Cooper, all of whom have described their unidentified sightings to me).

None of the persons interviewed on the program really addressed the actual nature of the overall UFO phenomenon; i.e., the many, many Close Encounter cases (such as those reported regularly in this publication and for which no logical explanation whatever has been found), the hundreds of cases of reported UFO interference with the electrical systems of vehicles (no mention of course of the work of Rodeghier on 441 such cases, published as one of the regular series of Center Reports) and nothing of the continuous flow of UFO reports over the past three decades, from all over the world, and of the many reports that come from technically trained people in very responsible positions. Yet much of this material was taped at the Center over a two-day period; none was used. It was displaced by the expose of pranks and misidentifications. One got the feeling that NOVA felt that once a prank or an honest mistake had been exposed, the UFO mystery was solved.

...AND UFOs

Yes, NOVA, serious UFO investigators do know about balloons, twinkling stars, Venus and advertising planes and missile launches, and do not waste their time on them. Yet NOVA thought nothing of creating the impression that if one can prove the existence of counterfeit money, the existence of legitimate coinage is denied.

There was a certain tragic humor to the program: it was as though one sought to make a documentary to prove that the common cold did not exist by parading healthy humans before the camera while totally ignoring all those in the room who were sneezing and wiping dripping noses! In another way, the program was a brave stand in a losing battle with facts: the continuous flow of reports, from responsible people, from all over the world. A startling example of this stand was the attempt to explain away the Travis Walton case as the result of an electromagnetic plasmoid produced by a geologic fault, causing brain centers in Walton to conjure up pictures of aliens who abducted him and kept him captive for four days! Mighty powerful plasma, if it existed. But, as Linda Howe points out in her letter to the NOVA Director, "I have discussed the earthquake plasmoid research at some length with Brian Brady, Colorado School of Mines. ...According to Dr. Brady, no one has any proof anywhere in the world that such microscopic phenomenon has manifested itself as 25-foot wide, or wider, glowing objects which have been observed by policemen, military personnel, pilots and others to last for many minutes or hours."

And even if such plasmoids did exist, why would they limit themselves to producing UFO sightings in the brains of their victims...why not pink elephants or fiery dragons?

This egregiously unfair, and one might say, even dishonest, NOVA program points up the need for a really good documentary (one which, so to speak, takes into account the sneezes and the drippy noses!) which treats cases representative of whole classes of cases (such as electromagnetic interference cases, animal cases, Close Encounters of several kinds etc.) which have defied rational explanation. We need a documentary that fairly presents the nature of the UFO phenomenon, its global occurrence, and portrays the witnesses as something more than gullible fools; a documentary that will examine what is observed, by whom, where, when, and which will present fairly, in the time allowed, a sufficient number of cases, each representing hundreds of documented cases like it.

Such a documentary would easily demonstrate that the NOVA presentation was inexcusably and deliberately biased, and hardly an example of what NOVA purports to stand for: honest and unbiased reporting of relevant facts. Indeed, if NOVA were to make available any unused footage in this documentary venture, a reasonably good documentary could be salvaged! In the meantime, I would urge all readers to let their local PBS station know their feelings about "The Case of the UFO." Remember, it is always better to kick than to growl, and it is never too late to kick. □

BOOK REVIEW

"UFO Crash Retrievals: Amassing The Evidence"

By Leonard Stringfield

Mark Rodeghier

Released this past summer, UFO Crash/Retrievals: Amassing the Evidence, subtitled "Status Report III," chronicles the continuing story of Leonard Stringfield's investigation and collection of these extraordinary reports. After just five years of work, Stringfield has collected a significant number of first, second, and third-hand accounts of the crash and subsequent retrieval of a UFO and, in some cases, of UFO occupants. (Ed. note: The matter of significance is not the number of first hand accounts, but whether they are indeed first hand; even one truly first hand witness who would "take the witness stand" is clearly more important than ten who say they were first hand witnesses but who refuse to testify). The time and effort required to conduct these investigations must have been exhausting, and Mr. Stringfield is to be congratulated on his effort and persistence.

Status Report III makes fascinating reading: the reader is often literally on the edge of his seat. No other subject in UFO research, quite understandably, has such inherent interest as a possble UFO crash, and Stringfield doesn't squander this natural advantage. The report is well organized and presents the purported first-hand, second-hand reports, relevant documents, including information that has been given to him on alien body structure and other tantalizing details. In addition, from the product standpoint, the type face is very readable and the overall appearance of the report is pleasing to the eye.

For those familiar with Status Reports I and II, the present document does not make a quantitative leap either in the quality or type of evidence for crash/retrievals, but rather adds more fuel to the fire Stringfield has been stoking for these past few years. It can, though, be read as a separate report with little loss in understanding, as each account is complete in itself.

To give the reader the flavor of the report, I quote from the account of KA (Stringfield's sources frequently request anonymity), an Air Force photographer on a secret mission in 1954 in New Mexico: "But what startled us more was the sight of four small bodies scattered outside the craft. They were motionless and appeared to be dead...They were small, approximately 4 to 4½ feet tall, with extremely large heads which were out of proportion to the rest of their bodies...Even with the spotlight shining on them, their faces seemed to have a light green, luminous tint." There is more, of course, but why spoil the story? Status Report III is great fun to read, especially for the post-Watergate generation that doesn't trust our government to ever tell us the truth, be it good or bad.

Having said all that, why did this reviewer finish the report with a curiously empty feeling, as if something was missing? I believe it can be attributed to two weak links in Stringfield's argument, neither of which he addresses adequately. First, consider the question of causality, a problem historians wrestle with every day. For a real-life example, recall the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. Who was Megmet Ali Agca working for? The Russians? The Palestinians? The Arabs? Or just himself and God?. Despite the efforts expended by the authorities, no one really knows the answer, yet we have the man, the weapon, other important records, and even motion pictures of the event. The lesson: complex events have many possible causes which are difficult to isolate.

Imagine then, if you will, the inherent difficulty in establishing that some UFOs have crashed and been retrieved, or the exact details of the retrieval, if we have nothing but witness testimony and the wish of the government to keep it secret. Stringfield implies that event A...the UFO crash...caused event B, the witness' account. But what if there are many other possible causes to account for event B? There are, of course, many, including the most elementary one of fabrications on the part of his informants. There are people, as we all know, who love to "pull people's legs" or just to provide a little harmless ego inflation for themselves, especially if their lives are barren of any excitement.

That is one reason why simple witness accounts of UFO crash/retrievals prove very little. And it does not strengthen the case that, quite frequently, the first-person witnesses drop out of sight. Such events are accompanied by dark hints of witness harassment, but that is just as difficult to prove as the actual UFO crash/retrieval story.

Conceivably more damaging to Stringfield's argument are the inconsistencies within the accounts. Here are a few glaring ones:

1) In case A-1, HJ is said to be 17 years old in 1953, but in his early 50's in 1982. One of these ages must be wrong.

2) President Eisenhower is reported to have visited Muroc Air Base in 1948, while he was President! Not true, obviously.

3) KA, the informant in case A-2 quoted above, is accused of going AWOL by his sergeant, who was not told of KA's special mission. Can we seriously believe that? What better way to blow the cover-up than by not giving the participants an air-tight cover story to use, or at least to intercede on their behalf?

These kinds of inconsistencies and factual errors cast doubt on the accuracy of other details in the accounts. One wonders why they were allowed to slip into the report. Likewise, the very nature of the bulk of Stringfield's reports also weakens his case, as they are often second-hand or worse, hearsay. I well understand the difficulties of finding the "smoking gun" that proves a case conclusively. Stringfield is not an investigative journalist and does not have sufficient resources of time and money for the work required; it would try an FBI team to ferret out the many details buried in the past.

There are other glaring omissions that cannot be overlooked. Why is there no study of probable military procedures for retrieval of unusual objects, the training of personnel, and, more importantly, the means by which secrets are kept secret and people forced to remain silent. Such information would allow us better to evaluate the witness accounts. Without it, we are left at a loss when assessing Stringfield's compiled evidence. This cannot be taken as a direct criticism of Stringfield; he very probably would like to have presented such studies if it had been within his means to do so.

Despite these criticisms, I am convinced that Stringfield does have something by the tail, but I don't know what that something is. A collection of stories from psychopathic liars? Hoaxes? Elaborate government deception operations? Or real crash/retrievals? Perhaps there are some of each. The most frequently voiced objection to the reports being real is that the recovery of aliens from outer space would be the story of the millenium and why would not some Jack Anderson or an Ellsberg have engineered the scoop of the century.

Those who are cheering Stringfield on, point out that the now famous Cash-Landrum case near Houston, as well as the recent work of the Roswell, New Mexico crash (it appears that something did crash there, but what...a top-secret device like the U-2?), has taught us that something is indeed rotten in Denmark, in this case, the U.S. It cannot be contested that our government continues to hide certain facts, some for valid reasons and some, perhaps, to avoid embarassment, or, in the Cash-Landrum tragedy, because of possible criminal culpability.

So, finally...yes, there may have been UFO crash/retrievals as reported in Status Report III, but the subject is simply too confused and obfuscated at present for any decision. Status Report III has succeeded in fanning the embers of this old fire, but the fire is still only smoldering. Will it ever blaze? Only if there is verifiable evidence.

I think that Stringfield would agree with this conclusion, which is by no means meant as a discouragement for further work. He writes in his Epilogue, "I knew that to even hint of a breakthrough in this Report...would be too brash an assumption." And, "testimony alone is not proof." I, for one, encourage him to continue, despite the repeated obstacle of the reticence of his informants. The very fact that such informants exist is reason enough to hear them out. We can all fervently hope that someday he will find a first-person witness, with full credibility and with documents, who will be willing to go public and settle this 35 year-old story once and for all! □

ERRATUM

We apologize for not catching an error in our September/October issue. Inadvertently, several paragraphs were rearranged, with the result that many readers justifiably complained that part of Mr. Sigismond's article didn't make sense.

We would like to ask you to go back to pages 11 and 12 of that issue and label the third paragraph on page 11 (which begins with "Regarding this child...") with the letter "A", the following paragraph with the letter "D", the next (now on page 12) with the letter "B", and the next (beginning with "Perhaps the...") with the letter "C." Now, if you read the paragraphs in proper alphabetical order, A,B,C,D, all will be well. This is the way the article should have been printed. We're sorry to have caused this inconvenience. Please do label the paragraphs, though; it will make it easier for the person you lend your Reporter copy to!

How To Report UFOS:

1) Locate and identify by names and addresses other witnesses to the sighting.

2) Photograph the object, the site, and any physical traces observed from several locations, including trees and buildings, using all film available, stabilized against movement during time exposures, preserve negatives for examination, record details of camera, lens and setting and film type.

3) As soon as possible, write down all details of the event, including time, duration, location, area sketch, orientation, weather and object details, such as color, sound, shape and approximate size.

4) Report the sighting promptly by calling our 24-hour number in Evanston, Illinois, (312) 491-6666, or write to CUFOS, P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, IL 60204.

The Case of the Rumbling Leviathan...

"Funny thing...oddly enough... the sound was just like that of the big ship in the movie 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'...you know, that low rumbling sound when the big thing came over. Well, so help me, but that's what it sounded like!"

"It was like being in a rowboat out in the ocean and having a giant oil tanker come slowly by...you really get the feeling of immensity."

TYPE: CE-II
DATE: March 8, 1982
TIME: 8:15 P.M.
DURATION: 2½ minutes
WITNESSES: Two, PLUS two independent corroboratory witnesses.
PLACE: Bethel, CT.

This case rates as one of the most bizarre UFO cases I have ever come across. It is really "one for the books." It fits no recognized pattern, yet was independently witnessed by two highly technically trained people separated by more than a mile. Despite its size and noise, its reported trajectory was limited. No one in adjacent towns made any formal report although the local police said they were "swamped with calls." Apparently, no names were taken. The case is so bizarre that one can hope that some of our readers can suggest a logical explanation; the case is a complete maverick. Indeed, it was so far "off base" that when Bob Gribble, of the UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, notified the Center about it, I was on the verge of not following it up at all, but I finally decided to 'waste' one phone call on it.

To my great surprise, the primary witness turned out to be a professional technical photographer working for a company well-known to me and one with which I had been closely associated in the past. It is engaged in some of the most highly classified, military related, projects current today. The witness himself, I learned, had been an observer in Viet Nam, calling in ground and air strikes. He has worked with all types of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, day and night, and was trained to identify them by sound alone. This fact becomes most relevant in considering his present testimony.

At present he is in charge of a separate 'secure facility' in the above-mentioned company and is experienced in just about all phases of photo-processing, image enhancement, evaporation processing and the state-of-the-art applications in these fields. He holds top-secret clearance with all the 'need-to-know' accesses in his research field. In my interviews with him it became clear that we had here another case of a highly trained person who had witnessed something that was distressing and frustrating to him because of his complete inability to identify the cause of his and his wife's experience (and that of the independent witness of whom he learned the next day).

"I was trying hard to hold on to reality," he told me. And, in attempting to do just that, he made a host of phone calls: to the local police, the State Police and to the local airport (it is important to note that all those agencies had had many calls reporting this event), to the Naval Station at Norfolk, VA, to Westover AFB, to the Oceana Flight Service, to Bradley Airport in Hartford, CT, and to the Sikorsky Air Service at Stratford (where they test-fly helicopters).

Now, to the event itself, and as much as possible in the words of the primary witness: "I was seated at my work bench, repairing a camera, when the tools in my hands started to shake, and I became aware of a low rumbling sound which intensified, in the space of approximately ten seconds, to the point where I could no longer hold the tools in my hands because of the vibration.

"At that point the whole house was shaking, and my first thought was that we were having an earthquake. Later we found that the vibration of the house had been so great that our washing machine and a floor cabinet had moved 2-3 inches from the wall and the flooring had separated from the wall in the amount of ½ inch at one place for a distance of 2 feet. The next day I checked with an air traffic controller at the Oxbury airport and he told me the "thing" had come right over his house (some two miles from our witness) and the vibration had made a coffee cup literally 'walk' across the table and fall to the floor.

"At the point when the whole house was shaking, I went into the hallway and met my wife coming out of the bedroom; we both quickly went outside, as the sound now seemed to be coming from a definite direction and seemed to be getting closer. On gaining the front porch we observed the object (see drawing) moving from SSW to NNE at about 60-80 knots, at an altitude of about 75 to 100 feet and about 100 feet in front of me." (When questioned on how these estimates were made he replied that he had a pair of binoculars with a range finder attached. "The most important thing to me at that time was to get a measurement on it. It was huge and it was close.")

"We have two dogs and they behaved as never before; they were extremely frightened and hid under the bed, something they never do. We live close to the local airport and we frequently have low flying prop and jet aircraft around...a lot of Lear jets and the dogs come out and bark at them all the time, but now, the dogs were petrified.

"What we saw doesn't fit into anything I've ever seen before in my whole life. I thought it might be an aircraft crashing, but dismissed this thought almost immediately as it remained at a constant height and was moving too slowly...well below the stall speed of any aircraft I know, and its lights looked like no aircraft configuration I had ever seen. Besides, the light arrangement would have argued for an aircraft of enormous size, approaching that of the Graf Zeppelin. I eliminated the Goodyear Blimp because the speed was too fast for a non-dirigible which is 30 knots in a good wind if it's lucky. At the speed of this object the Goodyear Blimp would have become a golf ball.

"All we saw were two parallel sets of red lights that never varied in distance or camber (fixed angle) from one another. Each row had 40-50 lights of low intensity, which is unknown in any aircraft recognition sequence. Each row was about 100 feet long and the rows were about 75 feet apart." (In describing the object to me over the phone the witness said, "Take two pencils and hold them vertically a few inches apart; now cant them to the left about 30 degrees. And now move them in a straight line, parallel to each other.")

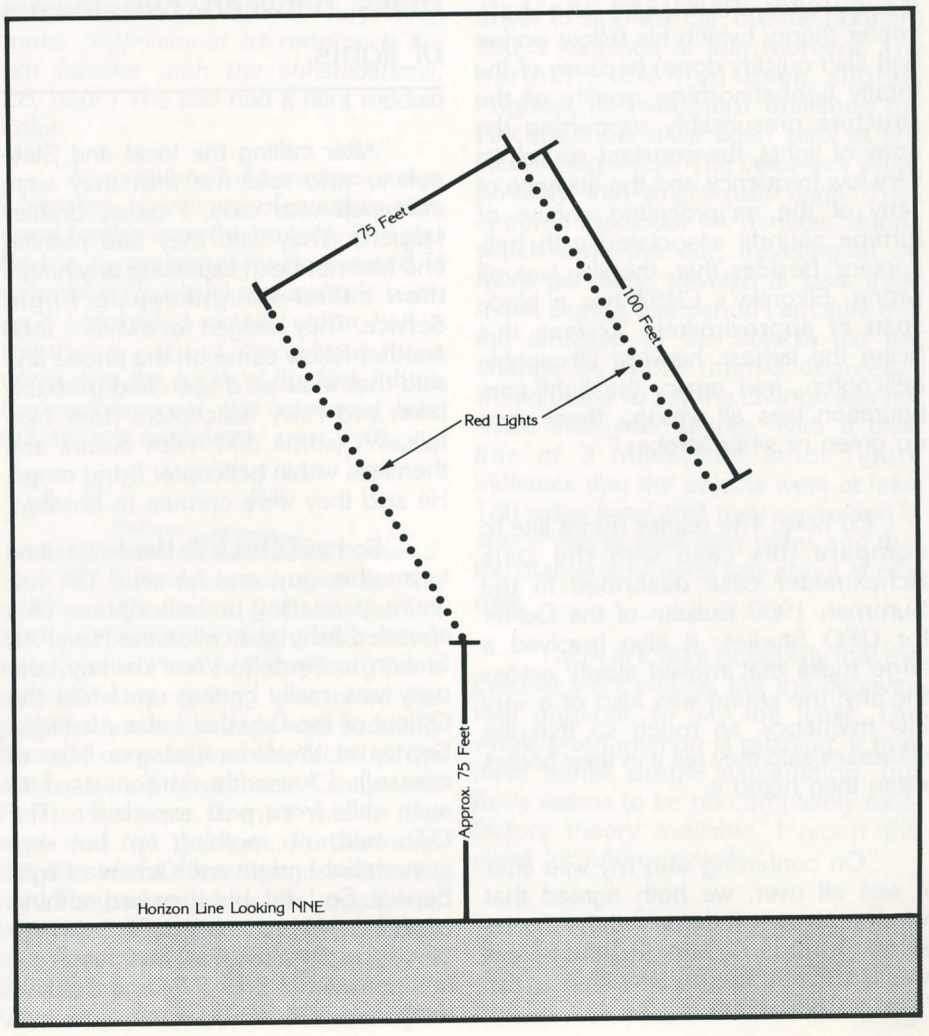
"The next day I talked with a fellow worker, a man in the Air Force Reserve, who had been driving home at the time, He had seen it, too, and he described it to me before I told him anything. He said it looked like two radio towers flying in the sky. The times fit almost exactly and the three observation locations (his, the air traffic controller's, and the fellow worker's) lie in a reasonably straight line."

Let us now interject the fellow worker's testimony. He is very technically qualified; he is a program manager working on camera systems and electronic counter-measures, laser designators and photo-reconnaisance methods.

He was driving alone on a typical Connecticut country road, with an unobstructed view of the sky. His observations largely confirm those of our primary witness. "Altitude was extremely low...first thing that came to mind was a formation of helicopters... very loud...vibration heavy...flying low, maybe 500 feet...don't expect to find things flying that low.

As to speed, "Like a hover, but not at a hover...very low speed, around 100 knots." What made him give up the helicopter formation theory?"The proximity of lights was such that no formation of aircraft could fly that close...no way to be flying that close, to be so tight knit...to make that noise, and have those lights. It had to be a single body and flying very low and with no navigation lights. I said to myself, 'Those guys are doing something they're not supposed to be doing.' It bothered me that I couldn't identify them...no structure, no silhouette."

We return now to our primary witness: When I asked him what I have often asked other witnesses, "Ten years from now, as you look back on this experience, what will be the things that most stick out in your memory?", he replied that the most bizarre thing about the whole event apart from the size, the very low but loud rumbling sound, and its slow motion, was that



this thing was completely black (apart from the red lights). Although there was a bright moon (it was the night before full moon) in a completely clear sky, the space between the two 'towers of lights' was absolutely black. Only immediately around each red light was there a suggestion of a slight reflection from a solid surface. "Otherwise there was just a black mass between the two towers of lights. In Viet Nam I worked with the most highly camoflaged vehicles you could think of, and yet even on a moonless night you could pick up reflections from canopies and curved surfaces...even as dark as it was in Viet Nam. This thing was just completely black!"

He quickly dismissed the helicopter theory (which his fellow worker had also quickly done) because of the totally light-absorbing quality of the structure presumably supporting the array of lights, the constant sound, its very low frequency and the absence of "any of the reciprocating engine or turbine sounds associated with helicopters. Besides that, the size was all wrong. Sikorsky's CH53 has a blade span of approximately 72 feet, this being the largest, heaviest lift-capable helicopter...and again, the light configuration was all wrong...there were no green or white strobes."

Ed note: The reader might like to compare this case with the Dale Schexnaider case described in the Summer, 1980 Bulletin of the Center for UFO Studies; it also involved a large mass that moved slowly across the sky; the sound was also of a very low frequency, so much so that the witnesses said they felt it in their bodies more than heard it.

"On conferring with my wife after it was all over, we both agreed that whatever it was, it conveyed the impression of immense size and the sound was like that of the 'mother ship' in the 'Close Encounters movie...seriously! The behavior of the dogs was also very unusual. After reanalyzing everything that we had seen, heard and felt, I must conclude that I cannot identify it with any known aircraft or helicopter. Whatever it was, it was nothing like anything I know anything about. It was very close, but there was no exhaust or smell."

Like any competent and technically trained witness, this one did his best to try to identify his sighting and went to great lengths to do so. It is instructive to follow just what he did.

"There was just a black mass between two towers of lights."

"After calling the local and State police, who told me that they were swamped with calls, I called Bradley (airport). They said they had nothing and had not been expecting anything. I then called Poughkeepsie Flight Service. They hedged for awhile...then another fellow came on the phone and said that what we'd seen had probably been two Navy helicopters from Norfolk, VA (some 300 miles distant and therefore within helicopter flying range. He said they were enroute to Bradley.

"So I went back to Bradley, talked to another guy, and he said, 'Oh yes, we're expecting a helicopter. This sounded fishy so I called the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, VA. Now my curiosity was really getting up. I told the Officer of the Day that I was Air Flight Service at Westover (lieing a little, of course!); I knew the jargon used in such calls from past experience. The O.D. said, 'no, nothing up' but suggested that I might call Oceania Flight Service. So I did, but they had nothing up either. Next, I called Sikorsky Air Service at Stratford, and their last flight had come in at 3:15 P.M. and this had happened at 8:15 P.M.

"The really bizarre thing was that when I finally did call Westover AFB and related the whole story to them, the officer in charge said, 'Do you want to report a UFO?' (just like in the movies!)"

Our witness' final remark: "Up to this point I really never believed one way or the other...always tried to stay open-minded and scientific about these things." But now he's really puzzled, and likely to stay that way, unless some of our readers can come up with a good answer! □

How We Define UFOS:

A UFO is any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearances and/or behaviours cannot be ascribed to conventional natural or man-made causes either by the original witnesses or by other technically trained analysts after thorough investigation using the best techniques and equipment currently available.

NL — Nocturnal Light: a distant anomalous light seen in the night sky.

DD — Daylight Disc: a distant object seen under daylight conditions, often disc-shaped.

RV — Radar/Visual: UFOs detected visually and by Radar simul-taneously. Good agreement between the two accounts is essential.

CE I — Close Encounter of the First Kind: a UFO seen within 500 feet.

CE II — Close Encounter of the Second Kind: a CE I which includes a verifiable change in the environment such as physical traces, physiological effects and electromagnetic interferences.

CE III — Close Encounter of the Third Kind: a CE I or II including the report of associated creatures, humanoids or robots.

Vignettes of UFO History

Dr. Menzel Reports A UFO!

It is hardly necessary to relate to anyone who has followed the UFO scene for any time, that the late Dr. Menzel was the arch UFO-debunker of his day. He was Director of the Harvard College Observatory and I had the privilege of knowing him quite well as an astronomical colleague; during my years at Harvard-Smithsonian my office was just down the hall from his. Despite his obdurate views on UFOs, which didn't seriously affect our friendship, (I think he always felt that sooner or later he would convince me of the error of my ways!), and I could certainly appreciate him as a person and as a fine astronomer.

In browsing over old Blue Book records, I rediscovered a UFO report Menzel had made to Blue Book on May 16, 1949 concerning his sighting of May 12. Of course he didn't report it as a UFO...indeed the term UFO was not used until 1952...but merely as something he couldn't explain as a natural phenomenon although, as you will see, he tried hard!

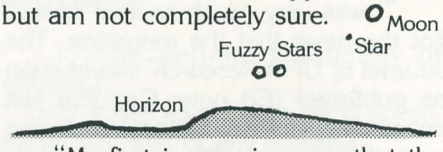
In all fairness, I will include his whole report, lest I be accused of taking things out of context. However, I will interject some comments (in italics) as we go along; I believe this ancient report will be of especial interest to our older readers, as will the Air Force's quick dismissal of the report, despite its unimpeachable source.

"On the night of May 12, 1949, while enroute from Holloman Air Force Base to Alamogordo, N.M. in a two-door sedan, I noted an atmospheric or celestial(?) phenomenon that I have been unable to explain. I am still not entirely convinced that what I saw may not have been an optical illusion of an unusual character.

(Ed note: He assumes it had to be atmospheric, celestial, or an illusion; in his universe, even though he was an astronomer, there was absolutely no room for anything else!)

"Shortly after leaving Holloman Base, I looked out toward the Sacramento Range, to the east. The time was about 9:30, possibly as early as 9:15. I was watching the moon rise. At the moment, the moon had an altitude of perhaps 15°-18° above the top of the Sacramento ridge. The moon was nearly full and the sky was bright. I was interested, therefore, to see a bright star, perhaps 6°-8° east from the moon. I wondered what the star was. When the sky is so bright that the fainter stars do not show, I find it hard to locate the constellations. *(Not at all surprising; many professional astronomers are not familiar with the constellations! Ed. note.)* The star had a faint reddish color.

"As I watched for a minute or two, I became conscious of another star, considerably near the horizon. The star had a fuzzy appearance caused, I thought, by low-level atmospheric haze. As I watched, I noted, within half a minute, a second star about three degrees to the south of the first. I think the northernmost star appeared first, but am not completely sure.



"My first impression was that the stars were Castor and Pollux in Gemini. Both increased in brightness rather slowly, which was not surprising for a pair of stars rising. I watched for perhaps another minute and suddenly became conscious of the fact that the stars couldn't have been Castor and Pollux, because Gemini was in the west and not the east. Furthermore, the size of the fuzzy images bothered me. They were, as far as I could tell, very nearly identical in diameter, which was about one-fourth the diameter of the full moon *(Ed note: No star could have such an apparent diameter...it would be discernible as a disk and not a point-like star).* The following picture, drawn from memory about 12 hours later, depicts the approximate circumstances:

The fuzzy stars *(Ed note: why insist on calling them stars?)* were three or four degrees above the horizon as defined by the mountain range.

"I wear glasses, bifocals; I turned and shifted my head to make sure that the phenomenon was real. I lowered the window another turn or two. The patches *(Ed note: Now the stars have graduated to patches)* remained. I was still unaware that the phenomenon was exceptional until the southern object suddenly disappeared. I then asked the driver to stop the car, but the northern object vanished at that moment. The northern one had been slightly brighter. At maximum brilliance the patches must have been zero to first stellar magnitude. The color was white, possibly with a greenish tinge. They endured for about six minutes, during which time the car, traveling at 50 miles per hour, traveled at least three miles. During that period I am sure that the direction of the objects did not change by more than 2 degrees. I would prefer to say the change was not more than one degree. With a base line of 3 miles, the latter figure indicates that the objects were at least 180 miles away, that their separation in space was at least nine miles and that the diameter of each was about ¾ of a mile.

"There is a bare possibility that the patches were clouds, but the behavior was unusual, to say the least. The whole phenomenon is puzzling. It may have some simple explanation, but there seems to be no completely satisfactory theory available. I report the event for future records.

Signed,
Donald Menzel
Harvard Observatory

□

The Chinese Connection...

As many of you know, China has finally recognized the UFO. Under the new regime the subject of UFOs is no longer taboo and UFO investigators who had to work clandestinely and separately, if at all, now have been able to surface openly. CURO, the China UFO Research Organization, organized in 1980, now spearheads UFO research, and there is a new publication, the Journal of UFO Research, which began publication in March 1981, and is now in its sixth issue.

We have had a portion of the early Journals translated, enough to give us the flavor of the UFO investigative activity in China. Of course, it is yet too early to judge, especially since the quality of the published materials is quite variable. But a good start has been made and, at least in some Chinese quarters, it appears that some scientific recognition is being accorded to CURO and the Journal.

As an example of this, there was published in the second issue of the Journal of UFO Research a letter from Zhon Xinyan, Science Editor of the People's Central Broadcasting Station, bearing the title, "My Hearty Wishes." Here are some excerpts from that letter:

"Unidentified flying objects have been disturbing the thinking and feelings of millions of people. To meet the needs for study and to uncover the world-wide puzzle in order to reach toward a solution, the publication 'The Journal of UFO Research' has now emerged as the times require.

"The Journal will objectively report UFO sightings and will become one kind of a science window with a wide field of vision...Differences of viewpoints on the matter of UFOs are enormously great. Opinions have been widely divided among the affirmationists and the negationists, whose points of view contradict each other so intensely as to make both sides feel as if their throats were stabbed with fish bones, causing them to want to spit them out as soon as possible to get comfortable again. The Journal will provide a desirable platform so that both sides can express their views freely and so that a hundred schools of thought can be represented...as it is known, positive and negative views are the two legs which carry the body of science forward toward new advances.

"Since UFOs come to us without considering national boundaries, the studies of UFOs should consider no national boundaries. Only by so doing can all the experts, scholars and amateurs throughout the world be able to cooperate fully and step forward hand in hand."

Noble thoughts! And what a change in the official attitude of the Chinese government. It is too bad that the Journal is published only in Chinese; the problem of translation is a rough one but perhaps can be solved jointly by just the sort of cooperation Mr. Xinyan calls for, by organizations around the world.

Another letter in the same issue was from Mr. Jin Tao, Science Editor of the Guanging Daily. Here are some excerpts from it:

"I was very much excited when I got the news that the magazine 'The Journal of UFO Research' would soon be published (Ed note: Can you just imagine any science editors here being excited by a new UFO Journal!)...it is the first time for China to give birth to a publication specializing on UFO research...Perhaps we all still remember that until not very long ago the subject of UFOs had been a forbidden zone of science in China. During that period many people deliberately adopted negative attitudes toward the subject because talking about is almost equated to the spreading of fallacies to deceive the people. And the idea of systematically gathering observational data and seriously investigating them was just unthinkable!

"It was just for this reason that quite a number of people who had sighted UFOs as objectively existing phenomena, and were really shocked by such astonishing objects existing in our universe, dared not make their experience public owing to the prevailing, conventional views. In 1980, after I published an article, 'Did Flying Saucers Ever Exist in China?' in the Tientsin Journal 'Science and Life,' I received about a hundred letters from all over the country reporting personal sightings which they had kept secretly to themselves for many years. Thus, it can be seen clearly to what an extent bias and the forces of convention have obstructed the advance of science."

Here is a short excerpt from a long article in the same issue, entitled, "A Flower in the Garden of Science," by Sun Shih, advisor to the Chinese Research Organization:

"The long expected specialized UFO publication, 'The Journal of UFO Research' has finally come out to meet with the Chinese reading public today. I am so excited to extend my warm congratulations to the birth of this new flower.

"We are now standing on the threshold of the 21st Century. While we feel proud and self-satisfied by the brilliant accomplishments of modern science and technology. we suddenly discover that we are really living in a sort of world of mysteries, suggesting that there is another secret and concealed world beside us which we do not know at all. We have built a great modern civilization and pushed technology to a new peak, and feel that we have now enough knowledge to understand and explain this boundless universe. But, mind you, it is a false impression that we have been able to interpret everything. The UFO phenomenon, and many other mysteries, however, are things which our modern science has proved weak and incompetent to explain. We must not forget that although the vast wealth of knowledge we have accumulated so far seems great indeed, we have nothing

...and Some Wholesome Chinese Philosophy

more than a temporary alignment of relative truth which may be only like a drop in the ocean of absolute truth.

"The UFO phenomenon seems to conflict in many respects with established knowledge. Nevertheless, for any phenomenon which cannot be explained in terms of modern science for the time being, we ought not rashly denounce it as being a kind of pseudo-science. Whether or not a new branch of science can be developed to meet these new phenomena should not be decided ahead of time by the authority of individual scientific experts, nor should their investigation be recklessly sentenced to death. If we relegate such phenomena to a forbidden zone, then we are something like a silkworm spinning a cocoon around itself."

Space does not permit presenting the entire translation we have been fortunate to obtain. The gist of it, however, seem to be that although "UFOs have gone public" in China only recently, there is already a great polarization of opinion among the public and scientists alike. Still, there seems to be good support for the new Journal (its first edition of 300,000 copies was sold out in a few days) and its circulation is on the rise. Since, furthermore, we are given to understand that nothing in China is done without the tacit approval of the Government, the appearance of this new Journal implies Governmental approval. If it didn't have this approval, publication would immediately be stopped.

The Journal in its first issues has confined itself largely to opinion and position papers, both pro and con, but there were some cases reported, two examples of which follow:

A NIGHTTIME SPARKLING DISC

TYPE: NL—(CE-I)
DATE: August, 1980
TIME: 10 P.M.
DURATION: Stationary phase...?; a few seconds after motion started
PLACE: Summer Palace (Peking?)
WITNESSES: Two, plus some bystanders

"One night in the middle of August 1980, while we traveled from the Summer Palace to Tsing Hwa University, my schoolmate and I saw a stationary brilliant oval object in the sky. It was made up of several brilliant, fixed spots (with respect to each other). The brilliance resembled sunlight, with a definite frequency of sparkling (pulsation?)...about 2 or 3 times per second. The diameter of the spots was about 2 to 3 meters. The shape of the object was something like two straw hats placed brim to brim, with a most brilliant center line.

"At that time, in the very darkness of the night, with stars and moon visible, we did not see any explosive phenomena from the object. After my schoolmate and I (some bystanders on the street were also observing) watched for some time, the object started to move, and ascended straight toward the east with high speed, and after 3 or 4 seconds it disappeared in the night. It was then about ten o'clock.

"We could be sure that this object was not a group of flying insects, an airship, or a man-made satellite because:

1) The definite frequency of sparkling
2) It had a very high flying speed, surpassing that of any airplane
3) Its outward appearance was disc-like or oval, with a prominent middle rim which impressed me."

This sketchy report has little scientific value, yet we see reported here, from far off China, and in rather different words than we are used to, much the same thing that has been reported in the Occident: we report "two plates. one over the other" or "two soup bowls, one inverted over the other" as well as a prominently marked "equator." The global nature of the phenomenon is thus once again emphasized.

THE SPINNING TOP IN THE SKY OF LANGCHOW

TYPE: NL—(CE-I)
DATE: Dec. 27, 1980
TIME: 9:30 P.M.
DURATION: 7-8 minutes
WITNESSES: 2
PLACE: Lake Yentan, Kansu Province.

"We are construction workers of Kansu Province. In the late evening of Dec. 27, 1980, after skating on the artificial lake of Yentan, about 9:30, and while we were readying to go home, Kao Bing noticed near the moon in the eastern sky, a dark red, triangular object, moving slowly. Looking closely, we saw that the object had a misty circle surrounding it in a east-west axis, as it moved slowly to the northwest. We both observed this object as it gradually moved over our heads and clearly saw that it had a dark red center resembling a spinning top. It was turning slowly clockwise, and flying smoothly but with a wavering motion like a spinning top about to stop. There was also a pointed grey-white protuberance which shed a brilliant light. From the outer edge of the object there was a regular, short emission of concentrated yellow-white light, reminding us of the flaming emission of the launching of a satellite. (Ed note: How did they know anything about the launching of satellites?) We did not hear any noise. This flying object was very pleasant to look at against the sky and the bright moonlight. We watched it for 7 to 8 minutes until it flew northwestward. We regretted that there were no other persons present and also that we did not carry a camera with which to photograph the UFO."

Once again, a relatively poor report since it lacks a back-up investigation, but it does demonstrate along with the others, that UFO sightings similar to those observed elsewhere, do occur in the People's Republic of China. With the regular publication of the Chinese Journal of UFO Research, we can expect to establish a flow of information between China and other countries...a much awaited China Connection. □

A Short Tale of a Swedish CE-I

Mr. Kristien Martinsson relayed this case to us by telephone from Sweden shortly before press time. Exactly why the hurry we don't know, since the event happened last Feb. 2, but we're glad to have it. Although we have only the details that came over the phone, and could not conduct our own investigation, the case is of interest because of its similarity to the CE-I cases described in the May/June and Sept./Oct. issues of this publication, and it happened about the same time and six days before the high-light sighting of the recent Brazilian flap (see IUR, July/Aug. issue.

TYPE: CE-I
DATE: Feb. 2, 1982
TIME: 8 P.M.
DURATION: Several minutes
WITNESSES: One primary, plus 2 corroborative, plus one independent.
PLACE: Skovde, Sweden

An eighteen year-old girl, Susanne Anderson *(note, Tammy Utt and Angie Parrotta and Nancy Hanson, who figured in the very similar northern Michigan CE-I's, were also that age)* much given to jogging, was on her regular route in the confines of a small town (about 20,000 people) but this evening she had run somewhat farther, to a school. It was on her way back home that she noted two very intense blinking bright lights in the sky, lower, she felt, than ordinary normal traffic aircraft, which at first she thought it was. She stopped her jogging to take a better look; the lights seemed to be coming directly at her, getting bigger and brighter. THERE WAS NO SOUND. Becoming frightened, she turned her jog into a full run, but after a bit paused to look back.

Now the object appeared as a metal-blue, saucer-shaped object, still completely soundless. At the bottom it had a blinking red light, the white lights having gone out. She now felt strongly that it was conscious of her presence and was actually hunting her. She made a dash for one of the school buildings and found shelter. She was trembling and found it impossible to get home by herself. She summoned help and shortly, her parents came to pick her up.

"I've never seen her so shaken before," her father stated; "one thing I must make clear," he continued, "Susan is not afraid of the dark and she does not fantasize. There is no doubt at all in my mind that something very scary happened."

While this case is very similar to many other "snooping lights" cases, it is unusual in one way: it occurred in an urban rather than rural area. Urban areas are apt to have more potential witnesses, and this happened in this case. A middle-aged couple were walking their dog some 200 yards away and they reported seeing the glowing object. They reported that their dog became so frightened that it hid in the bushes and was retrieved with difficulty. There was another witness also, a young man in his 30's who reportedly saw the object at the same place and time.

Ed Note: Obviously, as it stands, this report has little scientific value. Far more investigation would be necessary plus a re-enactment and timing of all the circumstances. We expect more information by mail, and will update this report when this becomes available. As it stands, however, it fits in well with many cases in the same time frame but on another continent and of which this young girl could hardly have been aware. It highlights the global nature of the UFO phenomenon and it might even indicate a tendency for these strange intense lights- (and associated craft, if visible) to focus their attention on young people. Much more statistical data are necessary before this can be considered seriously. □

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More Letters

A UFO(?) FROM THE PAST

The Center receives much mail that would definitely be of interest to our readers if space permitted. Here is an example (Edited):

Dear Dr. Hynek: If you wish to add this incident to your research material, I submit it for what it might be worth ...it does indicate that UFOs may have been with us for quite some time!

It was on a very clear early evening in the late summer of 1918 (!), between 7 and 8 P.M., at an isolated ranch in eastern Montana, 60 miles from the nearest town, Malta, served by the railroad. Although I was only 6 at the time I clearly recall my 9-year old brother rushing in to call the family outdoors to see an "airship" right over our ranch house.

I must say right here that while some families would have "pooh-poohed" this, my family did not. Ted was a precocious child, much interested in astronomy and aviation...he had pictures of the planes then existing in the U.S., France, England and Germany. When he said it couldn't be any of these because the "airship" stood still and hovered over the house, and that no airship could have done this, we had some reason to take him seriously. He also said that a dirigible would have been too large and unwieldy to have moved so fast.

He told us that it was a cigar-shaped object which flew over the rim of a distant mountain on the eastern horizon; it had rows of windows which emitted a bright greenish light. He described its rapid approach, its sudden swerving until it hovered directly over our ranch house. He said he had stood transfixed, studying it, when, with a whooshing sound, it began to lift and to move northwest toward the "Little Rocky Mountains" about 25 miles from our ranch. At that point he raced into the house to call the family but, of course, it was too late. By the time they got outside it had disappeared.

I should add that Ted was a child of exceptional intellect who learned to read before he was four and from the beginning showed a strong leaning toward science. At the time, World War I was still going on, and we all speculated that what he saw might have been some new type of aircraft invented by the Germans, or possibly a top-secret US airship being tried out in a remote area. *(Ed: There's nothing new under the sun in the way of explanations of UFOs!)*

It remained a family mystery, often discussed, but not until many years later, when reports of UFOs became publicized, did we have a clue. Alas, lack of money and opportunity for college prevented my brilliant brother from realizing his great potential. He died at thirty and never lived to see UFOs acknowledged and publicized.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Ione W. Conway

Ed note: One wonders how far back the 'legion of the bewildered silent' goes! How many stories like this may lie hidden in tales told by the family fireside but which were never reported. We know today, of course, that there are many more UFO events than are ever reported, largely because of the fear of ridicule; think of how much more ridicule would have been heaped on a UFO witness early in the century, before UFO became a household word.

As to the scientific value of this report, we must admit of course that it has little. Nothing more can be learned about it and so it remains "just another point on the curve," another statistic which just might in the long run prove to be of value. □

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